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## Patterson Reminds Consumers of Their Rights

*Concerned citizens can call AG's Consumer Protection Division toll free (877) 765-8388*

LANSING – Consumers who are concerned with the rising cost of gasoline in Michigan should take note of the Michigan Consumer Protection Division Toll Free Number, (877) 765-8388, Senator Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, reminded Michigan citizens today.

Patterson, the Chairman of the Senate Technology and Energy Committee, went on to say, “While gasoline is an energy commodity, it is not a regulated energy commodity. Therefore, the price of a gallon of gasoline is not set by the state of Michigan. However, Michigan has consumer protection laws in place which make it possible to prevent unscrupulous merchants from taking advantage of people.”

“Over the last few years we have learned that the actions of some gas stations in Michigan have created the need for consumers to be aware of their rights regarding gas prices,” Patterson continued. “Consumers will not be held hostage by predatory operators. Michigan has established a process to investigate and prosecute those who take advantage of consumers. Gas gouging will not be tolerated. Citizens should be encouraged to watch for suspicious price fluctuations and report them.”

The Consumer Protection Division is housed within the Attorney General's Office. Consumers may contact the division Monday through Friday, from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. An online compliant form is also available at [www.michigan.gov/ag](http://www.michigan.gov/ag), by following the Quick Link to “Consumer Protection.”

**Note: An audio recording of Senator Patterson's comments on gas gouging are available on the Michigan Senate Hotline at (517) 373-4000 or online at the Michigan Senate Republican Audiowire at [www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/).**